

Message Text

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FOR: VOA PGM/P PGM/R, STATE FOR EA/ANZ, CINCPAC FOR
USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS: JAPAN-CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST

1. THE CHRISTCHURCH "PRESS" IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL
ON AUGUST 15, COMMENTED UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADING:
"JAPAN-CHINA FRIENDSHIP TREATY":
-- "THE TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN CHINA
AND JAPAN, SIGNED LAST WEEK-END, WAS A LONG TIME COMING...

2. "THE TREATY MARKS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY AND THE WESTERN WORLD'S
SECOND-LARGEST ECONOMIC POWER. UNLESS THE SOVIET UNION
BECOMES UNDULY AGITATED, MOST OF THE REST OF THE WORLD,
INCLUDING NEW ZEALAND, SHOULD BE ABLE TO VIEW THE TREATY
WITH FAVOUR. TO SIGN SUCH A TREATY WAS AN ACT IN THE
INTERNATIONAL ARENA FOR BOTH OF THEM, MAKING A GESTURE
TOWARDS A PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIP. IT IS AN INDICATION THAT
THE ODD DISPUTES WHICH BLOW UP BETWEEN THEM - AS A
FISHING DISPUTE BLEW UP EARLIER THIS YEAR - WILL BE
SETTLED AMICABLY."

3. THE CHRISTCHURCH "PRESS" IN AN EDITORIAL ON
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AUGUST 14 COMMENTED UNDER THE HEADING "MIDDLE EAST TALKS
IN U.S.":
-- "THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE (MR VANCE) SCORED A
PERSONAL TRIUMPH IN PERSUADING PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT
AND MR BEGIN, THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL, TO COME TO THE
UNITED STATES TO TAKE PART IN TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.
THE UNITED STATES HAS ENGAGED IN MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

BEFORE, BUT THE TRIPARTITE MEETING THAT IS PLANNED
PROBABLY MARKS A CHANGE FROM A MEDIATING ROLE TO SOMETHING
MORE ACTIVE...

4. "ALL THREE HAVE A LOT AT STAKE IN THE TALKS.
PRESIDENT SADAT DESPERATELY NEEDS A SETTLEMENT BECAUSE
THE CONTINUED THREAT OF WAR IS STRAINING EGYPT'S ECONOMY:
MR BEGIN IS FIGHTING TO RETAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE
UNITED STATES ON WHICH HE DEPENDS FOR BOTH ARMS AND MONEY.
PRESIDENT CARTER IS NOT IN A STRONG POLITICAL POSITION
AT HOME AND AN OUTRIGHT SUCCESS OR FAILURE WOULD HAVE A
MAJOR INFLUENCE ON HIS STANDING. CONSIDERING THE
DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING THE TWO SIDES AGREE, IT IS A LITTLE
SURPRISING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS PUT HIS PRESTIGE
SO OPENLY BEHIND THE TALKS. MR BEGIN CANNOT BE UNMINDFUL
OF THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER BADLY WANTS THE
ADVANTAGE IN APPLYING CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO MAKE SURE
THAT THEY DO. AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE POLICIES OF MR
BEGIN HAS BEEN ERODING. TIME IS NO LONGER ON THE SIDE OF
ANYONE TAKING PART IN THE TALKS. THAT FACT ALONE SHOULD
GIVE THE WORLD MORE HOPE." ANDERSON

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